

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

[0028] Referring to the drawings, where like elements are designated by like reference numerals, Figure 1 illustrates a ternary phase diagram 200 showing glass forming regions for  $(Ge_xSe_{1-x})_{1-y}Ag_y$  compounds (*i.e., regions in the phase diagram where  $(Ge_xSe_{1-x})_{1-y}Ag_y$  compounds exist in the glass phase*), as studied by Mitkova et al. in *Dual Chemical Role of Ag as an Additive in Chalcogenide Glasses*, Phys. Rev. Letters, Vol. 83, No 19 (Nov. 1999), the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein. According to Mitkova et al. and as shown in Figure 1, ternary  $(Ge_xSe_{1-x})_{1-y}Ag_y$  glasses which comprise germanium selenide glasses with silver (Ag) as an additive form in two distinct compositional regions: a selenium-rich region labeled region I (Figure 1) and a germanium-rich region labeled region II (Figure 1). As also shown in Figure 1, a corridor 88 separates the selenium-rich region I from the germanium-rich region II. Mitkova et al. mentions that no bulk glass formation occurs along the corridor 88 until the silver (Ag) concentration exceeds  $y \geq 0.2$  and the two selenium-rich and germanium-rich regions I and II coalesce.